THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN EMBASSY

Ankara, Turkey,

December 14, 1937.

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No. 458

Subject: Denunciation of Franco-Turkish Treaty of May 30, 1926.

LEGAL ADVISER
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ADVISER ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
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711.514 LEBANON-SYRIA/58

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform the Department that the Turkish press announced on December 7, 1937, that Turkey had denounced the Treaty of Friendship and Good Neighborship which it had concluded on May 30, 1926, with France, acting on behalf of Syria and the Lebanon. In this respect the semi-official AGENCE ANATOLIE issued the following communique, dated December 6:

"Taking

ENCLOSURE NO. 1 TO DESPATCH NO. 458 DATED DEC. 14 1937 FROM AMERICAN EMBASSY, ANKARA

"Taking into consideration the fact that, on the one hand, certain provisions of the Turco-Syrian Treaty of bon voisinage concluded in 1926 at Ankara between the Turkish and French Governments have become obsolete and, on the other hand, the fact that the two governments are not agreed concerning the interpretation of certain other provisions, the Turkish Government has informed the French Government that it denounces the said treaty, at the same time declaring that it is prepared to begin discussions with a view to establishing the provisions of this treaty on a basis more in conformity with present conditions.

"It is believed that the negotiations will be begun following the visit to Ankara of the French Minister for Foreign Affairs."

For the Department's information it may be said that inasmuch as Turkey's denunciation of this treaty took place at a time when its relations with France were not at the best because of suspicions of double dealing which Turkey harbored concerning France's attitude toward the inauguration of the new régime for the Hatay (Despatch No. 456 of December 13, 1937), considerable speculation was indulged in as to whether or not Turkey's action grew out of the Hatay situation and constituted a retaliatory measure. Such does not appear to have been the case, since the Embassy has been informally informed by the French Embassy that Turkey's action was taken with the foreknowledge and approval of France.

It will be recalled that by virtue of the provisions of Article 16 the treaty was valid, with the exception of that part which related to the Turco-Syrian boundary, for a period of five years, but that if not denounced on six months' notice by one of the

High

High Contracting Parties it would be considered as having been automatically prolonged from year to year.

Respectfully yours,

Robert F. Kelley

Robert F. Kelley,
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Copies sent to Beirut and Paris.

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Central File: Decimal File 767.90D11, Political Relations Of States, Relations; Bi-Lateral Treaties., Political., Turkey And Syria, War. Peace. Friendship. Alliance. Non-Aggression., December 14, 1937. 14 Dec. 1937. MS Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States: Records of the U.S. Department of State, 1930-1944: Records of the Department of State Relating to Political Relations of Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States, 1930-1939. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5111394527%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC. Accessed 21 June 2025.